Dedham Jan. 23 1846

My dear friend,

I beg you to accept my most hearty thanks for that beautiful copy of the Liberty Bell - it was particularly gratifying to recive it, from one, who has always so kindly sympathized with me, both in joy and sorrow - I do assure you my dear friend, that I look back with pleasure, and gratitude, upon the first years of our acquaintance - I then was a mere child, never having taken any correct views of life, and having never learned at all, to think, or act, for myself - and what little progress I may have made, since that time, I feel indebted in a great measure to you, for it. —

But I am going to be very tedious, and talk with you a little about the Fair, soon after it, last year, Mrs. Jones told me that it was not agreeable to you (using the you in a general sense) to have the Dedham Ladies take home their articles after the sale had closed - I took no notice of it - saw at once, that as a general thing it would not be for the interest of the Fair, to have each table do the same — this year, Sister Louisa returned home with the same impression, — with regard to it - it has been a matter of necessity with us for the sake of raising money — as it is, it has been only by great exertion on the part of a few, that we have continued to supply a table - this year it was proposed to discontinue it, but two, or three, were determined not to give it up. —

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after each Fair, the Ladies have either bought the remaining articles, or sold them among their friends, for the sake of having money for those, that were willing to work - in no other way could we have done - even what we have, any time that it becomes necessary for you to make a rule that the things shall be left, we shall not object for a moment - it is no advantage to the Fair, but only for our own gratification that we choose to have goods obtained in this way. ——

I was extremely sorry when I heard that Mrs. Jones had been two or three days at the Dedham table - I had never felt called upon, to tell my Sisters, of her conduct at the previous Fairs - so she had a full opportunity of poisoning their minds - they looking upon her, as a devoted, and praiseworthy friend, of the Cause - It seems that Mr. Jones gave a Horse to the Fair, which sold very readily, from Deborah's table - that another, was bought in, and placed upon the Dedham table, it was a trifling affair to be sure, but I must be allowed to explain, - among other means of raising funds, we have sometimes made articles and Mrs. Jones has sold them for us, previous to the Fair this season, she owed our Society three or four dollars, which ought to have been paid. - she proposed to Louisa, to take the said Horse in payment of that debt, which she in her anxiety to raise money agreed to do, in case it sold. that accounts you see for it being placed where it was. —— I don't wish you to infer

more than I mean, when I speak of Mrs. Jones poisoning the minds of my Sisters, she has strong prejudices against some that attend the Fair, they do not reach yourself or Sisters, but she says, that she is not as cordially received as formerly, and attributes it to any thing but the right reason. I would not have been thus particular, but could not have a shadow of a suspicion, rest upon my Sisters, it would have been so unjust, for if they have erred at all, in regard to the Fair, it has been in doing more, than they could well afford. ——

With regard to the contemplated gathering for the fourth of July, I hope you will not expect to sell much to Dedham people, they are still in the depths of insanity with regard to this subject, and in fact about every other, that is for the benefit of mankind. (Let me know if I can be of any service with regard to it.) ——

I intended writing you long before this, but as usual, I have been sick, I fell was so unfortunate as to fall whilst walking, and have been under the physician's care for two weeks, consequently, shall be deprived of the pleasure of attending the Annual meeting this week. Give my love to Deborah, and Elizabeth and believe me,

Your sincere friend,

(Our table at the Fair did better the second week than the first, the whole proceeds were 4 7 dollars

Catherine H. Spear

Miss Caroline Weston

New Bedford

Mass.

1844

Boston Mass

Ms. A. 9. 2. 22. 12